

## Genta Ishizuka and Akane Saijo by ARTCOURT Gallery

石塚源太 + 西條茜 by ARTCOURT Gallery



[ Reference work (from left) ]

Genta Ishizuka *Surface Tactility #25* 2021

*Urushi*, hemp cloth, styrene foam ball, 2 way tricot

*Kanshitsu*-technique | 72x98x52 cm

Akane Saijo *Coquille* 2019

Ceramic | 65x35x20 cm

(Photo: Takeru Koroda)

Through *urushi* (Japanese lacquer) and ceramics, these two artists have garnered attention with their formative expression, where the self and physical sensations combine. We are proud to present the new works of Genta Ishizuka (born 1982) and Akane Saijo (born 1989) in a new exhibition at CADAN Yurakucho. Based in Kyoto, they are recipients of various accolades such as participating in the 4th Triennale of KOGEI in Kanazawa in 2019, *KOGEI as Contemporary Craft: Transcending Boundaries*. Both are promising up-and-coming artists in the crossover between craft and fine arts.

The graceful, curved surfaces and the vibrant freshness of their works seem to invite our consciousness from the surface to the interior. It is from that interior that the random tumescent bumps swell and the course of the hollow tunnels into. Reflections of shadows overlap on the base material and sound reverberates in the space between body and interior. It is from there and the material itself that images arise to be captured and work created. For Ishizuka, *urushi* is the material that serves as the basis to layer his expression and thought whereas Saijo creates a positive narrative with her criticism of the framework and production process of ceramics. The surface and the interior as well as the work and space are synthesized with various feelings. The works become the intermediary to create new relationships, person to person and person to object.

In this exhibition, we have drawn a parallel between their artistic worlds, with their mysterious gravitational pull, and the human body. We will introduce the works through the keywords “membrane and viscera.” We hope you visit this exhibition in dialogue with daily life and the physical body, and enjoy with all five senses.

**Genta Ishizuka** – Through traditional *urushi* art, Ishizuka’s abstract works pursue consciousnesses and sensitivities that can only be found at the boundary of the “membrane” of *urushi*. For his series, *Surface Tactility*, he wrapped spheres of Styrofoam in elastic cloth, and employed *Kanshitsu* (“dry lacquer”) technique on the bumpy curved surface. The works are a manifestation of the luster that dwells in the *urushi*. They also point to the connection between the deep history of *urushi* as a material and faith. The artist continues to bring attention to the potential of the existence of this “membrane” so that the viewer’s perception is transcended by tapping into our unconscious and imaginations. With “membrane and its distance” as a theme, beginning with his large-scale semi-sculptural works that can be hung on walls, we will present his new direction where the texture that is within is brought to the surface.

**Akane Saijo** – Highlighting the fictionality of the framework and process of ceramic production, where the reality of the surface contrasts with the hollow interior, Saijo constructs a narrative for her artistic world based on history and personal experiences. The organic shapes she often uses are traced from her own body and after the clay is shaped, they can be breathed into like in the Book of Genesis. In the hollow interiors, sounds can be applied to shapes as awareness of the connection between the inside and outside of the works develop. She also performs using her works with the group TOBOE. In this exhibition we have arranged her works, like internal organs that resonate sound inside and outside, to create a moment where the line between self and other becomes ambiguous.

[ Exhibition ]

Exhibition Title: **Genta Ishizuka and Saijo Akane** by ARTCOURT Gallery

Duration : **September 29 (Wed) – October 17 (Sun), 2021**

Venue : **CADAN YURAKUCHO** (1-10-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)  
[cadan.org/cadan-yurakucho](http://cadan.org/cadan-yurakucho)

Hours : Tue – Fri 11:00am–7:00pm / Sat and Sun 11:00am–5:00pm

Closed on Mondays

◆Talk show : October 17 (Sun) \*Details will be announced on the gallery's website



Genta Ishizuka *Untitled* 2021

*Urushi*, gold leaf, hemp cloth, styrene foam ball, 2 way tricot / *Kanshitsu*-technique | 10.3x13x9.5 cm | Photo: Takeru Koroda

## Genta Ishizuka and Akane Saijo by ARTCOURT Gallery

石塚源太 + 西條茜 by ARTCOURT Gallery

### Genta Ishizuka

1982 Born in Kyoto, Japan  
 2006 Exchange program at the Royal College of Art, London, UK  
 2008 MFA, Fine Art, Kyoto City University of Arts, Urushi Lacquering  
 2019 Awarded the The Best Young Artist Award by City of Kyoto

#### | Selected Solo Exhibitions |

2019 *Polyphase Membrane*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka [11]  
 2018 *Membrane*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
 2017 *Relative Tactile*, Art Space Niji, Kyoto [15, '13, '10, '09, '07]

#### | Selected Group Exhibitions |

2021 *THE POWER OF ORIGIN*, The Japan Folk Crafts Museum, Osaka  
 2020 Small works and great artist, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
 2019 *Kogei as Contemporary Craft: Transcending Boundaries*,  
 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
*LOEWE FOUNDATION Craft Prize 2019* [Gand-prix], Sogetsu Kaikan, Tokyo  
*ACG Villa Kyoto Vol.002 Kyotaro Hakamata x Genta Ishizuka*, ACG Villa Kyoto, Kyoto  
 2018 *Contemporary Lacquer*, Kanazawa Yasue Gold Leaf Museum, Ishikawa  
 2017 *HARD BODIES*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, USA  
*Open Theatre 2017*, KAAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre, Kanagawa  
 2016 *Reflection*, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu  
*Bi no Yokan*, Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo/Osaka/Kyoto/Aichi/Kanagawa  
 2015 *Rendez-vous*, Onomichi City Museum of Arts, Hiroshima  
*Selected Artists in Kyoto Celebrating 400 Years of Rimpa*, The Museum of Kyoto [14]  
 2014 *New Horizons in Contemporary Craft Part I: Lacquer and Pottery Beyond Materiality*, Shibuya Hikarie 8/Cube1,2,3, Tokyo  
 2011 *VOCA 2011* The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo  
 2008 *Art Court Frontier #6*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka

#### | Public Collections |

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, USA / Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK / Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto



[ Reference work ] Genta Ishizuka *Surface Tactility (on wall) #4* 2021  
 Urushi, hemp clot / Kanshitsu-technique | 137x98x52 cm  
 Photo: Takeru Koroda



### Akane Saijo

1989 Born in Hyogo, Japan  
 2013 Exchange program at the Royal College of Art, London, UK  
 2014 MFA, Fine Art, Kyoto City University of Arts, Ceramics  
 2020 Receives Kyoto City Special Bounty Program for Art and Culture

#### | Selected Solo Exhibitions |

2021 *Tainai Tea Ceremony*, Kyoto Municipal Subway, Daigo Depot, Kyoto  
 2019 *Grace of Taboo*, WACOAL STUDYHALL KYOTO Gallery, Kyoto  
 2018 *Grotta / solitude in the womb*, Dohjidai Gallery, Kyoto  
 2017 *Folly*, Art Space Niji, Kyoto [15]

#### | Selected Group Exhibitions |

2021 *Lost in Translation*, Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto  
 \*Participated as art unit TÔBOE  
*Gazing into the Dark, Touching the Light*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka  
 2020 *Bi wo motte yo to nasu*, Takashimaya Department Store, Kyoto  
 2019 *Kogei as Contemporary Craft: Transcending Boundaries*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
*Kyoto Art for Tomorrow 2019 - Selected Artists in Kyoto*, The Museum of Kyoto, Kyoto [17]  
 2018 *New Mutation*, Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto  
 2017 *Ascending Art Annual Vol. 1 Shapes and Figures*, Spiral Garden, Tokyo  
*Test Case XI*, European Ceramic Workcenter, The Netherlands  
 2016 *ROKKO MEETS ART 2016* [The Hakone Open-Air Museum Award], Rokkosan Pasture, Hyogo

#### | Artist Residencies |

2019 Le Maupas A.I.R., France  
 2017 European Ceramic Work Centre, The Netherlands

#### | Major Collections & Installation Locations |

Bank of Kyoto  
 Shinkenchiku-sha Office



[ Reference work ] Akaen Saijo *Swallowed sin* 2019  
 Ceramic | 60x110x20 cm | Photo: Takeru Koroda



[ Reference work ] Akaen Saijo *Dry-wet line #2* 2021  
 Glaze | 22x38x43 cm | Photo: Takeru Koroda